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The fact that the disease existed so long without recognition in one locality leads to the supposition that it probably exists under similar circumstances in other localities. An inspection of several penal institutions would give data sufficient to determine this.

### RELATIVE EFFICIENCY OF RAT TRAPS.<sup>1</sup>

#### TYPE OF TRAP WHICH HAS PROVED MOST EFFECTIVE IN MANILA.

By VICTOR G. HEISER, Surgeon, United States Public Health Service, Chief Quarantine Officer and Director of Health for the Philippine Islands.

With a view to ascertaining which type of rat trap was most effective and also the average number of rats that are caught by a given number of poisoned baits that are set out, statistics were kept during the antirrat campaign in Manila. The ratio maintained in catching rats with two types of traps is indicated in the following table, a perusal of which will show that for the three months ended June 30, 1913, there were 120,565 spring or snap traps set and that for every 100 of this type of trap set there were caught 6.9 rats. During the same period there were 47,075 wire cage traps set; the total number of rats caught was 339; which gives 0.72 rats caught for each hundred traps set. For the quarter ended September 30, 130,627 spring or snap traps were set and 9,753 rats were caught, which gives 7.47 for each 100 traps set. During this period 40,621 wire cage traps were set and 395 rats were caught, which gives 0.97 rats caught for each 100 wire cage traps set.

Kind of trap or poison.	Quarter ended June 30.			Quarter ended Sept. 30.		
	Number set.	Number of rats caught or poisoned.	Per cent.	Number set.	Number of rats caught or poisoned.	Per cent.
Spring or snap traps.....	120,565	8,377	6.9	130,627	7,753	7.47
Wire-cage traps.....	47,075	339	.72	40,621	395	.97
Poison bacon, rice, or coconuts.....	166,237	1,216	.731	177,309	216	.12

  

	Quarter ended—	
	June 30.	Sept. 30.
Number of rats—		
Caught by dogs.....	160	5
Killed with clubs and other weapons.....	2,889	3,813
Found dead from other causes.....	316	297

No accurate record was kept of the number of each kind of rat bait set. Only the total of all was recorded. Bacon, or coconut with strichnine and rice with arsenic were used. For instance, for the

<sup>1</sup> Submitted Nov. 28, 1913.

quarter ended June 30, 1913, there were 166,237 poison baits set in new territory and the rats found poisoned averaged for each 100 baits 0.72. During the next quarter there were 177,309 baits set in territory that had been worked over, and only 216 rats, or 0.12 rat per 100 baits were killed. From the foregoing it appears that the rat poison ranks lowest in efficiency but perhaps highest in economy. In view of the fact that the original cost of the cage trap is many times more than that of the spring trap, and the cost of maintenance is very high, it will be apparent that the spring trap is by far the more economical as well as more effective of the two.

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## RURAL SCHOOLS.

### SANITARY SURVEY OF SCHOOLS IN BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY, IND.

By J. A. NYDEGGER, Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.

The survey of the schools of Bartholomew County was made upon the request of the health commissioner of the county of Bartholomew and the secretary of the Indiana State Board of Health. Work was begun September 23, 1913. It was planned that the scope of the survey should include: (1) a medical inspection of the school children of the public and parochial schools, with especial reference to the occurrence of contagious and infectious diseases, particularly trachoma, and the extent of existence of defective teeth, hypertrophied tonsils, and adenoids, and (2) a sanitary inspection of the school buildings, grounds, outhouses, etc.

In order to have the inspection reports uniform, and also to expedite the work of the survey, a blank form for use in making the inspections was prepared. This form embraced some 36 items of medical and sanitary information relating to the pupils and schools, to be obtained at each school visited.

Bartholomew County is one of the large counties of Indiana. It lies in the southeastern part of the State and has an area of some 400 square miles. The surface in the greater part is level or rolling, but in the western section of the county is broken up and quite hilly. The White River and its tributaries traverse the county in a general direction from north to south. The lowlands are very fertile. Here the surface is overlaid with a deep humus, in part mixed with gravel from former river washings, with a gravelly substratum. The hilly section is mostly hard clay soil mixed with shale, with shaly substrata. This makes a permanent water supply a matter of some difficulty without going to a considerable depth.

The estimated population of the county is 28,000. The taxable basis is \$20,000,000. Columbus, the county seat, a modern, prosperous city, of some 11,000 people, is centrally located in the county.